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Assistant Chief, Mediterranean Bureau

8 November 1948

Chief, FBIB

Significance of FBIB reports

1. Reference Tel Aviv report that the Ramallah radio carried on 31 October 1948 a statement of Abdullah hinting at possible Jewish-Arab negotiations, it is noteworthy that your negative report on the Arabic broadcasts of that date was overinterpreted by intelligence analysts here as grounds to discount the existence of such an implied offer. This interpretation points up the reliance placed upon FBIB material and the consequent need for the utmost possible accuracy in the FBIB product.

2. Your report in this instance was as full and accurate as possible within limitations of reception. The initiative shown in checking Ramallah broadcasts immediately upon receipt of the Tel Aviv report is commendable. It is observed, however, that an editorial note attached to or following the Tel Aviv item would have anticipated the query from Washington and saved many hours in clarifying the situation.

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